proposes the levy of "user charges" on people living above the poverty line;

(c) if so, by when the legislation in this regard is likely to be introduced; and

(d) what are the main points of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An exercise is currently underway for revising the National Health Policy 1983. Various alternatives including levy of user charges are proposed to be examines.

(c) Upon finalisation of the National Health Policy, the same will be circulated to States/UTs., for comments and finally placed before cabinet for approval.

(d) The Revised National Health Policy will envisage to focus on various determinants which have an impact on the health status of the people like financial resources, equity, considerations, role of States, private sector, human resource development and other issues such as medical research, disease surveillance, role of IEC, NGOs, population stabilisation, etc.

Constitution of Blood Transfusion Councils

30. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Supreme Court has directed the Central and State Governments to constitute Blood Transfusion Councils in all the States;

(b) if so, the States which have, so far, constituted Blood Transfusion Councils;

(c) whether Government and NACO are funding these Councils;

(d) whether Karnataka has constituted the above Council; and

(e) if not, whether Government will assure grants to Karnataka to constitute the above Council?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the States/UTs except the newly created States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal have constituted Blood Transfusion Councils.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Norms for Adoption of Ayurveda Colleges as Centre of Excellence

31. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ayurveda Colleges of any State have been adopted by Government as Centre of excellence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government maintain any norms in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government will consider to adopt any of the Ayurveda Colleges in Kerala as Centre of excellence; and

(f) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) No such scheme has been formulated.

(e) to (f) Do not arise.

Strengthening of Rural Hospitals

32. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any project of strengthening rural hospitals has been implemented by Government with the help of World Bank;

(b) if so, the names of States in which such project has been implemented, so far;